

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03813 171221Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T GENEVA 3813

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, MO
SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSION

1. PLEASE CONVEY TO KING HASSANE FROM ME, EITHER DIRECTLY OR
BY WHATEVER MEANS YOU CONSIDER MOST APPROPRIATE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

-- I RECALL WITH THE GREATEST PLEASURE MY RECENT VISIT TO
MOROCCO AND MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS MAJESTY. I HAVE REPORTED
TO SECRETARY VANCE ON OUR LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS IN MARRAKECH,
AND BOTH OF US HAVE PROFITED FROM HIS MAJESTY'S OBSERVATIONS
AND INSIGHTS.

-- SINCE MY VISIT, WE HAVE CONTINUED OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
LEADERS OF ARAB COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE.
WE HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS TO KEEP KING HASSAN INFORMED CONCERNING
THESE TALKS, AND HE WILL HAVE LEARNED FROM AMBASSADOR ANDERSON
OUR MAIN IMPRESSIONS FROM EACH OF THEM. IN GENERAL, WE HAVE
BEEN PLEASED WITH THE CONSULTATIONS TO DATE, AND BELIEVE THAT
THERE IS SUFFICIENT POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT THAT
THE MOST ENERGETIC EFFORTS TOWARD THAT END ON OUR PART AND THE
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PART OF ALL FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST ARE FULLY WARRANTED.

-- OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE REVEALED, NONETHELESS, THAT SERIOUS
OBSTACLES DO EXIST WHICH CAN BE OVERCOME ONLY WITH GREAT
FLEXIBILITY AND COMPROMISE ON ALL SIDES. THE MOST IMMEDIATE
PROBLEM IS THAT OF FINDING A WAY TO ENSURE THAT PALESTINIAN
VIEWS ARE REPRESENTED AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT,

HOWEVER, THE ISRAELIS REFUSING TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO.

-- WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM AT SOME LENGTH WITH THE ARAB LEADERS WE HAVE MET, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THE ARAB LEADERS HAVE AGREED THAT, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THIS IS A PROBLEM FOR THEM TO DEAL WITH. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE FULLY DEALT WITH IN ANY NEGOTIATION, AND ALL CONCERNED INCLUDING THE ISRAELIS RECOGNIZE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND IN A WAY THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE BULK OF THE PALESTINIANS IF THERE IS TO BE A PEACE THAT ENDURES. IT WOULD THUS BE REGRETTABLE IF THE PROBLEM OF REPRESENTATION AS SUCH SHOULD SERIOUSLY DELAY OR BLOCK THE HOLDING OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

-- I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY HIS MAJESTY'S SUGGESTION OF SECRET CONTACT WITH THE PLO UNDER MOROCCAN AUSPICES. IN RECENT WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN MAKING IT CLEAR TO THE PLO THAT SO LONG AS THEY REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL WE MUST CONTINUE TO DECLINE TO DEAL WITH THEM. WE DO NOT WISH TO SEND CONFUSING SIGNALS. THEREFORE, IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME TO HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES.

-- ANOTHER IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH IF A SETTLEMENT IS TO BE REACHED, AND THAT INVOLVES PRIMARILY THE ARAB SIDE, IS THAT OF THE NATURE OF THE PEACE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN A SETTLEMENT. ISRAEL ATTACHES DECISIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME RELATIONSHIPS WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS IN THE CONTEXT OF A SETTLEMENT, AND IN OUR VIEW THE ISRAELIS
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WILL NOT BE PREPARED FOR EXTENSIVE WITHDRAWALS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN THE ABSENCE OF STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE HISTORY OF HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WOULD MAKE IT UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT NORMAL RELATIONSHIPS TO BE CREATED OVERNIGHT, BUT THEY COULD BE DEVELOPED IN PHASES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME IN STEP WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT.

-- HIS MAJESTY WAS KIND ENOUGH DURING MY VISIT TO SUGGEST THAT WE MIGHT WISH TO GIVE HIM QUESTIONS CONCERNING A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT THAT HE COULD PUT TO THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN A VERY CONFIDENTIAL WAY. WE APPRECIATE THIS OFFER ON HIS PART AND BELIEVE THAT AT THE RIGHT TIME SUCH EXPLORATION COULD ADD A MOST VALUABLE DIMENSION TO THE RESULTS OF OUR OWN CONSULTATIONS. WHEN WE HAVE PROCEEDED FAR ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO FORMULATE SUCH QUESTIONS, GROWING OUT OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WE ARE NOW ENGAGED IN, WE MAY WELL WISH TO AVAIL OURSELVES OF KING HASSAN'S THOUGHTFUL OFFER. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INSIGHTS HE MAY GAIN ON ARAB POSITIONS WITH RESPECT

TO THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS QUESTIONS
DISCUSSED ABOVE.

-- ONCE AGAIN, LET ME REITERATE HOW USEFUL AND ENJOYABLE I
FOUND MY TALKS WITH HIS MAJESTY. WE ALWAYS VALUE HIS THOUGHTS
AND ADVICE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL
CONCERN.SORENSEN

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